

SENATE—Tuesday, May 4, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You have promised, "In quietness and trust shall be your strength."—Isaiah 30:15. For a brief moment we retreat into our inner world, that wonderful place called prayer, where we find Your strength. Here we escape from the noise of demanding voices and pressured conversations. With You there are no speeches to give, positions to defend, or party loyalties to push. In Your presence we can simply be. You love us in spite of our mistakes and give us new beginnings each day. We thank You that we can depend upon You for guidance in all that is ahead of us today. Particularly we ask for Your guidance on the vote on the war powers resolution concerning our involvement in Kosovo.

Now, Father, we realize that this quiet moment in which we have placed our trust in You has refreshed us. We are replenished with new hope. Now we can return to our outer world with greater determination to keep our priorities straight. Today is a magnificent opportunity to serve You by giving our very best to the leadership of our Nation. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. This morning the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 20, with a brief statement by Senator MCCAIN. Following Senator MCCAIN, the majority leader will be recognized to make a motion to table S.J. Res. 20. Before I speak, however, and make that motion, I believe Senator DASCHLE will use leader time to make some remarks, too. So Senator MCCAIN will speak, Senator DASCHLE, and I will speak and make a motion to table S.J. Res. 20. Therefore, the first rollcall vote of the day will occur at approximately 9:45.

If S.J. Res. 20 is tabled, the Senate will immediately begin debate on S. 900, the financial services modernization bill, under the provisions agreed to last night by unanimous consent. It is hoped that significant progress will

be made on the banking bill, and therefore Senators can expect further rollcall votes today.

We do have one complicating factor. We have also had another natural disaster to strike our country, this time in Oklahoma. The Senators from Oklahoma feel the necessity, understandably, to go to Oklahoma, and we will have to take that into consideration in how we schedule votes. I will consult with the Democratic leader about that timing.

The Senate will be in recess for the weekly party caucus luncheons from 12:30 to 2:15. I thank my colleagues for their attention. I believe Senator MCCAIN is ready to speak.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. ARMED FORCES TO THE KOSOVO REGION OF YUGOSLAVIA

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair recognizes Senator MCCAIN for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to ask unanimous consent that Senator DORGAN be allowed to make a brief unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Anthony Blaylock, a member of my staff, during the pendency of S.J. Res. 20.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent for 3 additional minutes, if necessary, for me to complete my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank Senators LOTT and DASCHLE for allowing the Senate more time for this debate than was their original intention. I think it has been a good debate. It was not as long as I would have liked but better than I had expected yesterday morning. Many Members on both sides, or should I say on all the multiple sides of the question, have had the opportunity to express themselves and most have done so with distinction. I also thank the cosponsors of the resolution for having the courage of

their convictions. Senators HAGEL, BIDEN, LUGAR, KERRY, DODD, ROBB, and all the other cosponsors. You have made the case for the resolution far more persuasively than have I, and I commend you for fighting this good fight.

Mr. President, the Senate is not in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will please be in order.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to speak plainly in the few minutes remaining to me. What I say now may offend some people, even some of my friends who support this resolution. I am sorry for that, but I say it because I believe it is the truth, the important truth, and it should be said.

The President of the United States is prepared to lose a war rather than do the hard work, the politically risky work, of fighting as the leader of the greatest nation on Earth should fight when our interests and our values are imperiled.

We all know why in a few minutes this resolution is going to lose. It is going to lose because the President and members of his Cabinet have joined with the opponents to the war and lobbied hard for the resolution's defeat. Do not believe administration officials when they tell you that the resolution would have been defeated even without their active opposition. Had they worked half as hard in support of it as they did to defeat it, the result would have been different today.

No, it is not that they could not win; it is because they did not want to win that we are facing defeat this morning. That is a shame, a real shame.

I have said repeatedly that the President does not need this resolution to use all the force he deems necessary to achieve victory in Kosovo. I stand by that contention. And I have the good company of the Constitution behind me.

I had wanted this resolution considered in the now forlorn hope that the President would take courage from it and find the resolve to do his duty, his duty by us, the American people, by the alliance he leads, and by the suffering people of Kosovo who now look to America and NATO for their very lives.

I was wrong, and I must accept the blame for that. The President does not want the power he possesses by law because the risks inherent in its exercise have paralyzed him.

Let me identify for my colleagues the price paid by Kosovars for the